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BARACK OBAMA

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Obama in transition: Ready to speak out if nation's 'core values' are threatened. 4

Columnist's open letter to the outgoing president. 4

A look at what the history books might say about Obama. 6-7

A professor of American race relations offers assessment of Obama presidency. 8-9

ILLUSTRATION BY BILLY BECERRA, METRO

PROTEST GROUP VOWS TO DISRUPT INAUGURATION

Leaders of an ad hoc group of protesters enraged by Republican Donald Trump's election as president of the United States vowed to disrupt his inauguration this week by blocking public access to the event. The DisruptJ20 protest group said it will send groups of demonstrators to the dozen entrances to the grassy National Mall where hundreds of thousands of people are expected to gather to watch Trump, who

has never before held public office, be sworn in as president on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on Friday. "We believe that it's our role and the role of any people with conscience to try to disrupt this inauguration and have a massive showing of resistance on that day," Samantha Miller, a DisruptJ20 organizer, said. REUTERS

NETFLIX BLOWS PAST SUBSCRIBER ESTIMATES

2 Netflix Inc.'s international and U.S. subscriber additions blew past analysts' estimates as the video streaming service released shows including the award-winning British drama "The Crown" and a revival of "Gilmore Girls." Netflix, whose shares rose 7.1 percent in extended trading, has been hugely successful in attracting more subscribers through the popularity of its original shows such as "Narcos" and "Stranger Things." The company said on Wednesday it signed up 5.12 million subscribers outside the United States in the quarter ended Dec. 31. Analysts on average had estimated 3.73 million additions, according to research firm FactSet StreetAccount. Faced with slowing growth in the United States, Netflix has launched in almost every country. REUTERS

WELCOME TO METRO.US!

Take a break from the news. That's what our entertainment blogger did. Instead of brooding over our incoming president, this week Jenna Busch binge-watched a lot of TV. And she couldn't help but nitpick. This week's column marvels over improbably giant apartments, phone calls that end without a "bye" and foreplay-less sex. Check out her column:
metro.us/jenna-busch

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

FAREWELL TO THE PRESS

5 President Barack Obama holds the last news conference of his presidency in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington, D.C.

ALL IMAGES BY GETTY IMAGES

SENATE PANEL APPROVES TRUMP PENTAGON PICK

3 The Senate Armed Services Committee voted overwhelmingly to recommend President-elect Donald Trump's pick for Secretary of Defense, retired Marine General James Mattis. The committee voted 26-1 to back Mattis' nomination when it is received by the full Senate from Trump after he is sworn in as president. As a result, Mattis' nomination will be sent directly to the Senate for a vote without

referral to the committee. The identity of the senator who voted against Mattis was not immediately available. Congress cleared the way for Mattis' quick confirmation last week by backing a waiver that would allow him to lead the Pentagon despite retiring from active duty only in 2013. REUTERS

HW BUSH MOVED TO ICU; WIFE HOSPITALIZED

4 Former President George H.W. Bush has been moved to an intensive-care unit at a Houston hospital with pneumonia and was stable and resting comfortably after doctors performed a procedure to clear his airway, his office said on Wednesday. His wife of 72 years, former first lady Barbara Bush, also was admitted to the same hospital on Wednesday as a precaution after experiencing fatigue and coughing, the office said in a statement. Bush, who at 92 is the nation's oldest living ex-president, has been at Houston Methodist Hospital since Saturday after experiencing shortness of breath, family spokesman Jim McGrath said on Wednesday. Since then, Bush experienced an "acute respiratory problem stemming from pneumonia" and was sedated for the unspecified procedure, his office said. REUTERS

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Obama leaves office pledging to defend nation's 'core values'

The president used his final White House news conference to defend a host of recent decisions.

METRO STAFF & REUTERS
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President Barack Obama answers questions for the final time as president at his last White House news conference. GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama touched upon a range of topics, from sanctions against Russia to his decision to commute the sentence of convicted leaker Chelsea Manning, during his final White House news conference Wednesday.

However, he used the occasion to stress that he leaves office committed to speaking out whenever he determines the nation's "core values" are in jeopardy.

Obama noted that he expects a new president and a Republican Congress to set their own course and pursue an agenda that will clash with his political outlook.

"There's a difference between that normal functioning of politics and certain issues or certain moments where I think our core values may be at stake," he said. "I put in that category if I saw systematic discrimination being ratified in some fashion. I put in that category explicit or functional obstacles to people being able to vote, to exercise their franchise. I put in that category institutional efforts to silence dissent or the press. And for me at least, I would put in that category efforts to round up kids who have grown up here and for all practical purposes are American kids and send them somewhere else, when they love this country."

He urged President-elect Donald Trump to keep separate the issue of economic sanctions on Russia from the pursuit of talks to reduce nuclear stockpiles.

Trump, who takes office on Friday, said in an interview with the Times of London published on Monday that he would propose offering to end sanctions on Moscow in return for a nuclear arms reduction deal.

> *"Russia continues to occupy Ukrainian territory and meddle in Ukrainian affairs."*
> President Barack Obama

Obama's administration imposed the sanctions in 2014 after Russia's annexation of the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine.

"Russia continues to occupy Ukrainian territory and meddle in Ukrainian affairs," Obama said. "I think it would probably best serve, not only American interests, but also the interests of preserving international norms if we made sure that we don't confuse why these sanctions have been imposed with a whole set of other issues."

Obama defended his decision to commute the 35-year sentence of former military intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to the roughly seven years she has served.

"Chelsea Manning has served a tough prison sentence," Obama said.

TO PRESIDENT OBAMA, WITH SOLIDARITY

Columnist Ernest Owens gets a handshake from President Obama during a Hillary Clinton campaign event in Philadelphia. PROVIDED

Dear President Obama,

Today is your last day as the 44th President of the United States.

Tomorrow, you will be replaced by an egomaniac who has an Ivy League degree less than you and never held elective office. While you ran with sensitivity, hope and resilience, your successor ran with fear, bigotry and unbridled white privilege. In a perfect world, your most trusted confidant Joe Biden would have been my ideal pick — but your loyalty to your party brought us Hillary. It takes a lot of maturity to back someone who wanted your position eight years ago, but you've always been wise beyond your years.

As a young black man, my relationship with you is complex. I admire your intelligence, strategy and overall swag, but I also wished you would have been a little more aggressive. You should have been at Ferguson the same way you made it to Sandy Hook. Not confronting race head-on in order to appeal to a larger sector of white America was at times backbiting. But you also were the first black man to inherit the Oval Office and go through the hurdles of what that entails. I have forgiven you for that. I can't even imagine how tumultuous it was.

This country was ungrateful for the example you set in diplomacy, and deserve every bit of what's to come in the next four years. You raised two bright young girls with a first lady who is the epitome of brilliance. You got us affordable health care, saved us from a financial meltdown, and ensured more rights for marginalized people. You weren't perfect, but you were closer to presidential perfection than anyone who held that office during my lifetime.

January 20 will be a different day, but it shouldn't be anything the nation can't handle. We've survived two Bushes and a Reagan — we can definitely overcome a Trump. Thank you for being a messenger of hope in a time when many would rather tell us that all is lost. I said, "Yes we can" in 2008, I must tell myself the same thing the next four years.

In solidarity and gratitude,

Ernest Owens

Ernest Owens is an award-winning multimedia journalist.

Do you agree with Ernest? Let us know on Twitter: @Metro_US.

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How has President Obama affected Philadelphia?

"It really goes back to urban centers and the impact he may have had on people who live in urban centers," said Karen Turner, a journalism professor at Temple University. "What I'm hoping is to see more activism from young people, especially in places like Philly."

Obama likely favorably, say

Experts say first black president's legacy marked by health-care law, LGBT rights, "public barriers" of rivals.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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Barack Obama's presidency is undeniably historic — he's secured his spot in the history books as the first African-American to hold the office. But what else will he be remembered for?

Obama's list of accomplishments over his two terms include the Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage, the nuclear agreement with Iran, an international climate-change agreement and an auto-industry bailout that helped propel the U.S. out of the 2008 Great Recession.

But experts say Obama's most-remembered achievement is be the passage of the Affordable Care Act — dubbed by opponents derisively as Obamacare, a term reappropriated by the president himself — the signature health-care legislation that eliminated preexisting-conditions clauses and mandated coverage for birth control and yearly physicals in insurance policies, among other things, even as Republicans attempt to dismantle it.

"The fact that he put health care on the table as a conversation, the fact that [the ACA] exists, means that people have now begun to think about the right to health care," said Karen M. Turner, a journalism professor at Temple University.

"Presidents in the past have tried to do that, but never got as far as Obama, to actually implement a health-care program," she said. "Now that we have it, even if it is going to be changed, the fact is, there is something."

However, the future of the ACA and other Obama initiatives is still uncertain, so we don't really know in what light he'll be remembered 20 or 50 years from now, said Chris Capozzola, a history professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"How he's remembered depends on what happens next," he said. "Presidents leave office

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to be recalled professors

with one reputation, and that reputation can change over time."

John F. Kennedy was remembered fondly at first, partly because he was assassinated, Capozzola said. But with the passage of time, historians have been more critical of his presidency.

On the other hand, Harry S. Truman was seen as a "complete failure" when he left office in 1954, in part because of how divided the country was at that time. Generations later, people began to appreciate Truman's role in the Cold War.

Still, Capozzola said he agrees that the healthcare legislation has cemented Obama's legacy.

"The Affordable Care Act will be harder to dismantle than its opponents think," he said. "History shows that entitlement programs are generally popular with the American public."

The partisan opposition Obama weathered will also color his legacy, Turner said. She noted that historians will have to contextualize how Obama "ran into public barriers" with Republicans who said bluntly they were not willing to work with him as president.

Even though he had adversaries, Obama's "exemplary" demeanor won't be challenged when his presidency is examined in hindsight, according to Robert Shapiro, a government professor at Columbia University.

"His critics referred to him as 'No drama Obama.' Obviously he was a very serious, deliberate thinker when making decisions," he said. "Not that they'll be proven to be the best decisions, but his processes to reach them will be seen as good ones. Also, his personality and style were highly presidential."

Shapiro compared Obama to presidents such as Franklin Roosevelt, Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan and John F. Kennedy, heads of state who have had "charismatic styles and presence as leaders."

Obama is also relatively young, Capozzola said, which means he will have a long post-presidency.

"It remains to be seen how he will handle his ex-presidency," Capozzola said. "But I think we can't take it for granted that he will be an active ex-president who has set his eye to the history books."

President Barack Obama jokingly mimics U.S. Olympic gymnast McKayla Maroney's 'not impressed' expression while greeting members of the 2012 U.S. Olympic gymnastics teams. GETTY IMAGES

TIMELINE

2009
THE YEAR OBAMA ASSUMED OFFICE. HE LOOKS YOUNG AND ENERGETIC.

2013
AFTER THE FIRST TERM, THE 44TH PRESIDENT'S HAIR HAS BECOME NOTICEABLY GRAYER.

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Race relations unchanged during Obama presidency

"America has always been racially polarizing," says a professor of race relations.

ALEXI FRIEDMAN
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Chad Dion Lassiter is a professor of American race relations at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, and president of Black Men at Penn School of Social Work Inc. He spoke with Metro on Martin Luther King Jr. Day about the polarized state of race relations in the United States as the nation's first black president leaves office.

Here are excerpts from the conversation, which have been edited and condensed.

Looking back after eight years, what did Barack Obama's presidency do for race relations in America?

The election of Barack Obama brought the color line closer together. I don't think we're post-racial. Post-racial is still a mirage. It was crafted by the elites to say systemic institutional racism and all the things that are a threat to our democracy no longer exist, that we've transformed the color line with the ascension of Barack Obama. When he got in there though, a lot of the power elite awakened to the real realization that here is a black man at the highest office in the land. So the obstruction politics were similar to what Congressman John Lewis said, that never in the history of the democracy have you had a standing president give a State of the Union address and someone belts out, "You lie!"

Philosophically not just politically, Barack Obama and Donald Trump seem to be complete opposites. How do you explain the American people going from one to another?

When we look at where we are now, this is not all on Donald Trump's shoulder. A lot of this was planted with the Tea Party. The rhetoric from the right as it relates to xenophobia, as it relates to Islamophobia. As it relates to, "Let's build that wall." So Donald Trump comes in and he's able to say what a lot of people are thinking but don't have the audacity to say.

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President Barack Obama walks alongside Amelia Boynton Robinson, right, one of the original marchers, the Reverend Al Sharpton, second right, first lady Michelle Obama, left, and Rep. John Lewis, second left, Democrat of Georgia, and also one of the original marchers, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery civil rights marches in Selma, Alabama. GETTY IMAGES

Has the state of race relations improved in the last eight years, and where do you see it heading under President Trump?
I think where we're at in the country as it relates to race relations is the same place we were at when Obama was elected president. America has always been racially polarizing. A lot of things have been swept under the rug. On this King Day, we still should be looking at the same thing that King looked at when he articulated the triple evils: militarism, poverty and racism. And so, those weren't created by Donald Trump or Barack Obama. Those were created by the democracy.

What would you want to see Obama do after leaving office to improve race relations in the United States?
I always said that once president Obama got out of the Oval Office, we were going to see a world leader who has the ability and God-given gift to unite the globe. Obama has the ability to write books and we can hear how he really feels without the confines of empire. I think he has the opportunity to give workshops and trainings about the racial divide. He has the ability to deal with value clarifications to navigate the color line where we can all look at each other and see the humanity for who we are.

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What you need to know about Trump's presidential inauguration

Donald Trump will be sworn in Friday as America's 45th president on Jan. 20, 2017.

He will take the oath of office, administered by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, according to usa.gov: "I do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The day's events will include a morning worship service, procession to the Capitol for the swearing-in, swearing-in of the vice president, the president's swearing-in, the inaugural address, departure of the outgoing president, inaugural luncheon, inaugural parade and inaugural ball.

There is no telling how long President-elect Trump's speech will be, but likely longer than the shortest inaugural address — by our first president, George Washington, at only 135 words. Sworn in on April 30, 1789, Washington's ceremony took place in Trump's hometown of New York City. The first president to have his inauguration in D.C. was Thomas Jefferson in March 4, 1801.

President-elect Donald Trump
GETTY IMAGES

Now, the ceremony is held much earlier in the year, and has a much bigger audience — with those not only watching from the Capitol, but also from TVs and smartphones across America and the world.

Part of that audience will also be protesting Trump, as they have been since he was elected the next president.

Protests for Trump's inauguration ceremony on Jan. 20 are already being planned, while a "Million Women March" is also being called for Jan. 21 in Washington and more cities, the day after the inauguration.

There has also been controversy around who will be performing at the inauguration, typically an event that garners top acts. But Trump has been reportedly having a hard time securing top talent.

As of Jan. 16, here is who is secured to perform:

- The marching band for Talladega College
- The Rockettes
- The Mormon Tabernacle Choir
- Jackie Evancho
- Toby Keith
- 3 Doors Down

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Bella Hadid: Queen of subtle shade

Bella Hadid, a 20-year-old, is apparently very upset that her ex-boyfriend The Weeknd has moved on so quickly. And she is not being subtle or quiet about it.

I'm imagining it went something like this: Bella saw those pictures of The Weeknd (aka Abel Tesfaye) and Selena Gomez making out post-dinner in Santa Monica. She felt something — a stirring in her bones. And she knew what to do: unfollow Selena on Instagram. So she did just that. But that wasn't enough — no, no: She had to do something more — but not, like, too much. So she posted a paparazzi shot of her flipping off the camera. That'll do it …

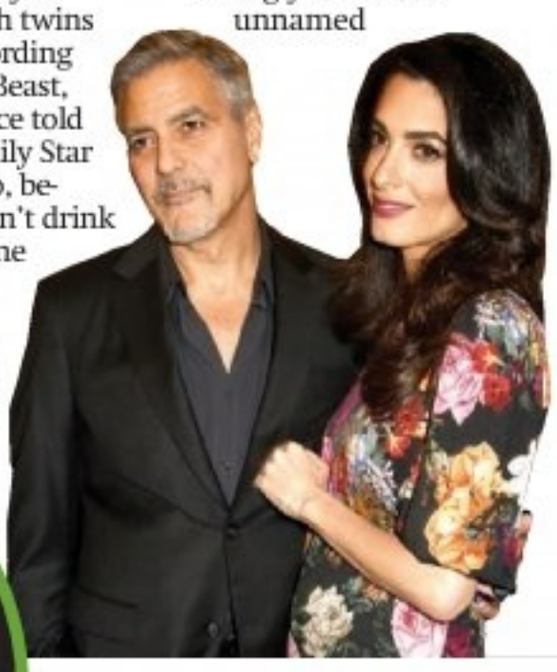
But wait, no. A "source" leaked a "quote" about how she's feeling. According to Perez Hilton, the mystery "source" said: "Bella and Abel's split wasn't dramatic, but of course she's hurt and pissed that he's moved on so quickly with Selena."

Girl, I get it. But the best way to get back at people is to live your life and shove your personal success in their face, so maybe do more of that and do less of having your publicist leak quotes about how mad you are. Don't get mad, Bella. Get even.

Amal Clooney is probably not pregnant with twins, sorry

New year, new batch of unfounded pregnancy rumors, amirite?

Amal Clooney is reportedly maybe pregnant with twins because, according to The Daily Beast, a family source told Lebanon's Daily Star as much. Also, because she didn't drink at an event one time, and she's been wearing very loose-fitting clothing. The source claims Amal is due in March.



In Touch corroborates these claims, citing yet another unnamed source who says, "[George has] gone from never wanting to be a father to being totally excited about Amal's pregnancy and the thought of raising two children who will call him 'Dad.' He's been doting on Amal's every need and talking to her belly."

Now, call me crazy, but if one is pregnant with twins and due in the next two months, wouldn't they be showing, even if it's a minuscule amount? But I guess anything is possible.

Well, here's a lukewarm, *maybe congrats* for the happy couple.

the word

RACHAEL CLEMMONS
@RACHAELCLEMZ

Abigail Breslin claps back at Tiffany Trump haters

Abigail Breslin recently came under fire for posting a super-casual photo of herself and future first daughter Tiffany Trump at a friend's birthday. But according to Elle, she wants to make it clear that the harassment she's receiving is not OK.

"If you're judging me for hanging out with someone I've known for years at our friends [sic] bday party, you need to reevaluate your life," the "Scream Queens" star wrote on Instagram. She later added, "To everyone who's being horrible and disgusting to me rn, I didn't vote for trump." Touché, Abigail, touché.

I mean, I would argue that our country is on the precipice of extended turmoil, but I get what you're saying, kind of. It's not your fault you are friends with Tiffany Trump and that Tiffany Trump is the daughter of Donald Trump, who is somehow our president-elect. I got you. But still, maybe check yourself before you, you know, wreck yourself. Just like, in case.

Charlie Sheen apologizes to Rihanna

It's pretty clear Charlie Sheen will do anything for attention. And the best way to get attention sometimes is to utter the names of celebrities who are way more significant than you. Which is why, I guess, he called Rihanna "a b—h" during an appearance on "Watch What Happens Live."

Perez Hilton notes that this beef has been a long-standing one, although it's mostly one-sided: Rihanna retorted that Charlie Sheen was an old queen, then went about her business. But now, Sheen has posted an apology on his Instagram, offering to buy the Grammy winner a drink. Sorry, Charlie. Rihanna doesn't have time for you.

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In M. Night Shyamalan's "Split," Anya Taylor-Joy plays a high schooler kidnapped by a troubled man (James McAvoy) with 23 personalities. UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Anya Taylor-Joy's besties are her directors

The young star of "The Witch" goes big with M. Night Shyamalan's "Split."

MATT PRIGGE
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Over the holidays, Anya Taylor-Joy got to show her family and friends in Argentina her new movie. And it wasn't a nice movie. It's "Split," the latest from M. Night Shyamalan, and another project that finds the Miami-born, Argentina- and U.K.-bred actress doing horror.

"Usually when I watch my movies it's pretty stressful for me anyway," Taylor-Joy tells us. "I'm looking at my face and trying so hard to focus on everybody else's work. I'm like, 'Oh God, Anya, why are you on screen again? Stop ruining the movie for me!' But to watch this movie with people you've known since you were tiny, it's like you're traumatizing them. My mom cried the whole time."

With the exception of last year's "Barry," in which the actress plays one of young Barack Obama's college girlfriends, her films have been dark. She broke through a year ago with "The Witch," and last fall saw her headline "Morgan," as a genetically-engineered superhuman.

GETTY IMAGES

"My grandparents are desperate for me to do a romantic-comedy. I told them not to hold their breath," she says. Not that comedies are out for her, but it would have to be more like "Juno." "I'd love to do a comedy like that at some point — really dry."

At least the film she's bringing to this year's Sundance isn't horror. "Thoroughbred," co-starring Olivia Cooke and Anton Yelchin, is a thriller involving deception and murder, not multiple personalities or homicidal goats. And she formed a bond with writer-director Cory Finley, just as she had with Shyamalan and "The Witch" maker Robert Eggers.

"My agent the other day said, 'You have a strange relationship with all of your directors because you're friends,'" she recalls. "All the directors of my movies are the people I hang out with. We go and get dinner, we go dancing. You have to have so much trust, and the relationship you build is so intense. It requires so much love from both sides to work."

Taylor-Joy still constantly texts with Eggers and Shyamalan. "They're both my mentors," Taylor-Joy says. "Robert's like my best friend of all-time. Night calls me up and says, 'Would I be proud of your choices? What movies are you doing?' If I have a question about something or if I want to do a project or not, I call Night and we talk about it."

She's not giving up anytime soon. "I act because if I didn't, I wouldn't be able to breathe," she says. "Acting just makes me so much more stable."

She hearts Philly

Being an M. Night movie, "Split," of course, brought the actress to the filmmaker's town of Philadelphia. She fell in love.

"Something I've done with every film I've done is I've become very friendly with the crews," she says. "They're usually from wherever it is we're filming, so I got out with them and I get to experience [places] like a local." That's how she discovered a jewelry store called Halloween, which is where Stevie Nicks shops. ("I'm the biggest Stevie fan of all time," she adds.) And her favorite Philly food, she decided, was at Blackbird Pizzeria, especially the vegan truffle pizza.

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Taking a stand: Andrea Navedo of 'Jane the Virgin' is ready to get political

PROVIDED

The election of Trump was a huge wake-up call.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

"Jane the Virgin" returns with new episodes Jan. 23, and coming so soon after the inauguration of Donald Trump, viewers will be hungry for its unique balance of telenovela-esqe absurdity and heartfelt discussion of more serious, hot-button issues, like abortion and immigration. Set in Miami, the CW series focuses on the lives of three generations of Latina women: Jane, her mother and grandmother.

Andrea Navedo, who plays Jane's gregarious mother, chats with us about her character getting an abortion on prime-time television, missing Obama and how Trump's election has been a huge wake-up call for her.

"Jane the Virgin" recently got renewed for another season. How does that feel?
Every actor, I imagine, no matter what level they're at, always worries about where their next gig is gonna come from, and at least I can be sure that I get to continue this amazing ride on "Jane the Virgin" for the next year and a half — so I'm happy.

What do you think accounts for the show's success over the years?
The show doesn't take itself too seriously. It knows it's outrageous and comes from that perspective of complete awareness — with a wink or a nod to the audience like, "Yeah, we know this is crazy." Also, having a core Latina family touching on issues of feminism, immigration and abortion — the show hasn't been afraid to touch on those ideas.

On that note, your character had an abortion this season, which isn't a topic we normally see on prime-time television. Why is that storyline so important?
Society has gotten out of touch about the big fight that it took years ago [for women to have the right to choose]. I think it was important to bring it into the limelight because at this moment in time, that right is being threatened.

With Trump in office, do you think television will continue breaking new ground by covering issues like abortion, or do you think it'll become more conservative?
I think it will continue to break new ground because the entertainment business is much more liberal, open-minded and accepting of the other than the government might be.

Are you going to miss Obama?
Oh, yes, very much so. He was such a classy president. Intelligent, elegant, gritty, hard-working — really a shining example of what a president should be.

What are your plans for Inauguration Day?
I was considering going to the Women's March in Washington but it's not going to work out for me. There might be some stuff happening here in L.A., so, if that's the case, I will be there. This is actually the first time that I've felt the need to be political. Unfortunately, I feel guilty of this. too, but I think we as a society have become so comfortable with all of our things — all of the material things. It's just so easy to distract ourselves — the media just numbs the public. This is a huge wake-up call.

"Jane the Virgin" premieres Monday, Jan. 23 at 9 p.m. on The CW.

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things to do

CONCERTS

CREDIT

Jill Scott

Beloved Philly daughter Jill Scott leads an evening of A-plus soul music this Friday night at TLA. The concert features a whole lineup of sultry vocalists, like Bilal, Algebra Blessett, Robert Glasper and Kenny Lattimore—all of whom are coming together to benefit famed trombonist and North Philly native Jeff Bradshaw, who is battling a rare illness called diverticulitis disease.
Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
TLA
334 South St. $55-$85, tlaphilly.com

Dow, Sobrino and Fujiwara

British folk-punker Frank Turner and his backing band The Sleeping Souls return to the Fillmore for the first time since playing a massive 23-song set there in 2015. Turner is touring in support of his sixth studio album, "Happy Songs for Negative People." Opening acts include gothic Americana five-piece Murder by Death.
Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls
Jan. 20, 6:45 p.m.
The Fillmore Philadelphia
29 E. Allen St.
$28.50, thefillmorephilly.com

Kings of Leon

Nashville rock band Kings of Leon are touring the globe in support of their latest full-length, "WALLS," an acronym for We Are Like Love Songs. The album hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200 after its release, and has spawned well-received singles "Waste a Moment" and the eponymous "WALLS." Philly is one of a handful of final stops in the States before they hop the pond to Europe, so see them while you can.
Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Wells Fargo Center
3601 S. Broad St.
$29.50-$69.50
wellsfargocenterphilly.com

FOOD

Center City District Restaurant Week

Sunday marks the beginning of the first leg of Center City District Restaurant Week, which features deals at more than 120 restaurants in Rittenhouse, Midtown Village and Old City through Jan. 27. This is your chance to try out some of the city's most-hyped dining spots, like Barbuzzo, Abe Fisher and fancy-pants Bar Volver on the cheap-ish. Three-course dinner menus at participating locations run $35, while some venues also offer a $20 three-course lunch menu.
Jan. 22-27, centercityphila.org

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Poe Party 2017

The Raven Society hosts a party to celebrate the 208th birthday of Edgar Allan Poe. The bash takes place in the super cool rare-book department of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The evening includes cocktails, discussions about the birthday boy and a behind-the-scenes tour of the venue—one of the largest libraries of its kind in the nation. If you can't make this, FLP offers free basic tours of the rare-book department at 11 a.m. every day.
Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Free Library of Philadelphia
1901 Vine St. Free,
facebook.com/RavenSocietyFLP

DANCING

"Grease" Dance Party

Heads up, beauty-school dropouts. The Dolphin Tavern's DJ David Atlas presents tunes from well-karaoke'd high school musical "Grease" along with other hits from the 1950s. Staying true to the time period, Atlas will spin only vinyl records. Make sure your hand jive is on point.
Jan. 19, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
The Dolphin Tavern
1539 S. Broad St.
Free, dolphinphilly.com

PROTEST

Women's March on Philadelphia

On Saturday, thousands of rabble-rousers of all genders gather along Benjamin Franklin Parkway for a march in the name of gender equality and for the protection of civil liberties for women. After the march, attendees gather at Eakins Oval for musical performances and speeches from local organizations and politicians, like Mayor Jim Kenney and State Rep. Brian Sims.
Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Eakins Oval
2451 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Free, wmow-phila.com

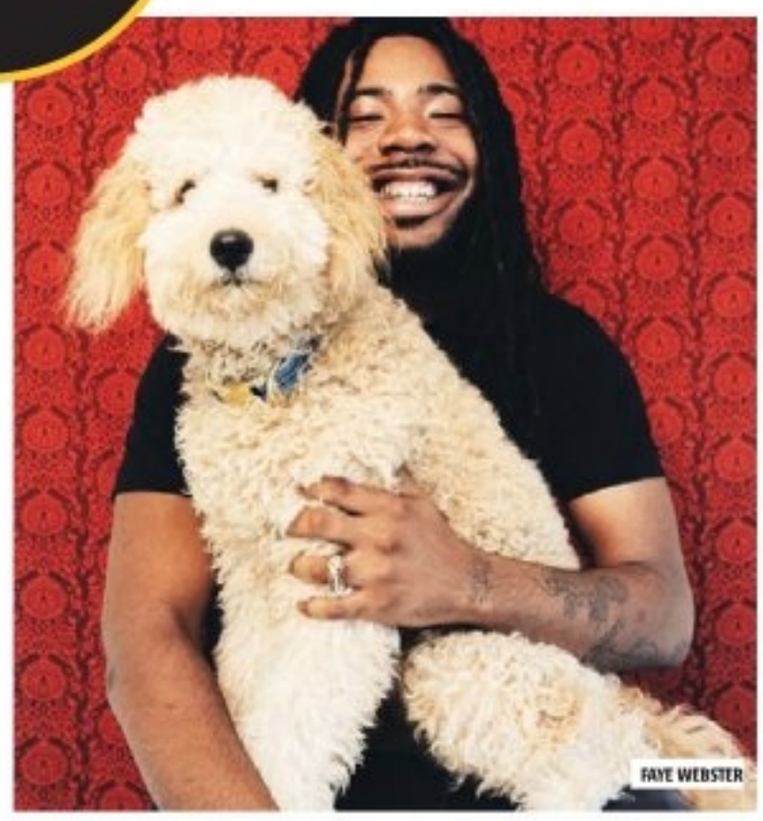
CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year Celebration

The Penn Museum hosts one of the city's longest-running Chinese New Year celebrations this Saturday. Held in the gorgeous China Gallery, the day welcomes The Year of the Rooster with traditional music, a tai chi workshop, calligraphy lessons and more. The whole shebang closes with a lively Lion Dance.
Jan. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Penn Museum
3260 South St.
Free with $15 general admission
penn.museum

JOSH MIDDLETON

D.R.A.M. is a big baby with a cute dog


FAYE WEBSTER

You can call him D.R.A.M., you can call him the name of his debut album "Big Baby D.R.A.M." or you can call him by his birth name, Shelley Marshaun Massenburg-Smith. But what you should never call the Virginia native — who made his bones with 2014's Latin-tinged "Cha Cha" and 2016's summer pop smash, "Broccoli" — is hip-hop.

That's because D.R.A.M. worked long and hard to ensure that this debut would be as diverse as his listening habits, with "Outta Sight/Dark Lavender Interlude" sounding like '90s electro-pop, "Cash Machine" reminiscent of Ray Charles-like R&B, "Cute" coming across like dancehall reggae and "Misunderstood" sounding as grand as any Foo Fighters power ballad.

If you go

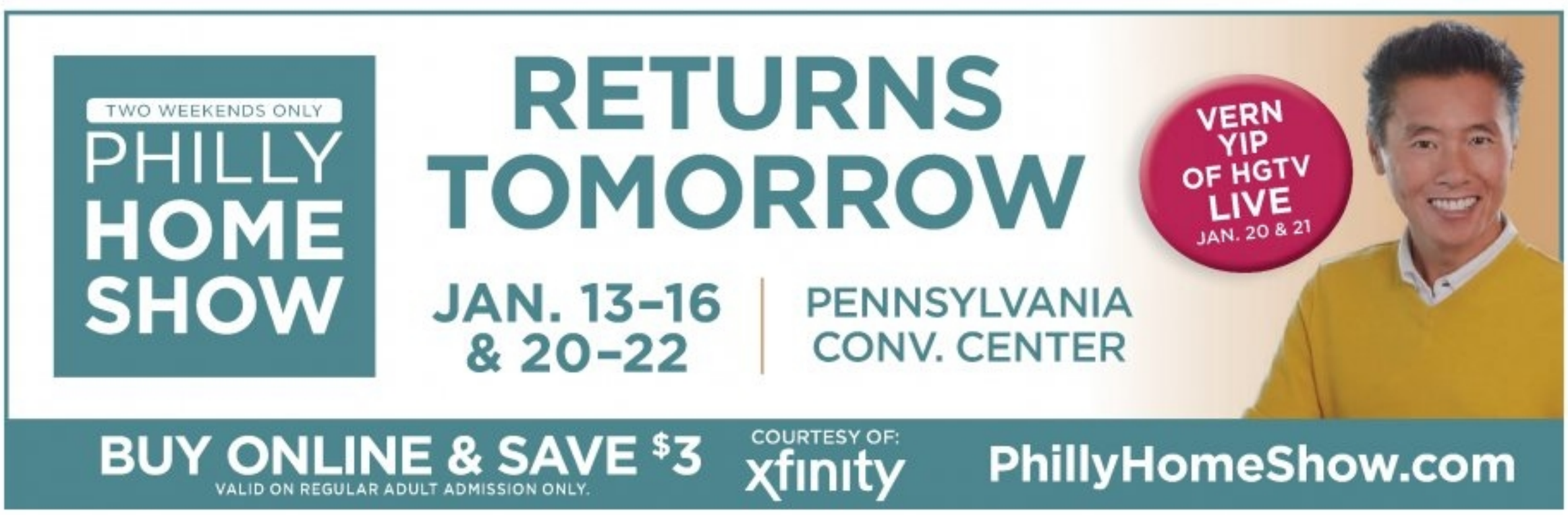
Jan. 19 at 8 p.m.
The Foundry
at the Fillmore
1000 Frankford Ave.
$20, thefillmorephilly.com

And bonus, with the cover of his album, D.R.A.M. made a star out of his adorable golden doodle, Idnit (short for "idnit cute?" which he is). We chat with the Grammy nominee about his album, his dog and what working on a call center taught him about artistry and empathy.

Did you learn from the job you had before you struck it big — a call center gig?
I think I learned something about being considerate to the next person or the person in front of you. And maybe even the idea of passing it forward. I was always friendly and considerate, which made me more memorable.

Your album touches on everything from arena rock to jazz. Was diversity important to assert right away?
It was. I am all music. It depends on what mood I'm in or what everyday changes are occurring, I listen to all sorts of music, always have and I wanted to immediately reflect all of my vibes. I don't discriminate. It was important to me that that was on the table right away. If you're getting a chance to release music, you want to cover as many lanes as you can as quickly as you can.

OK, I know you're famous, but what about Idnit? Once you put your dog on your album cover, I can't help but think he's getting as much press as you.
My dog is getting a lot of cred. Everybody wants to see and pet him. The good thing is I take Idnit with me almost everywhere I go. I love him to death. People want their picture with the dog, sometimes over me. [Laughs] I didn't think it was going to get to this point. I just wanted an album cover that reflected the vibe of my album — warm and fuzzy — and that photo was the money shot. He's gonna be a huge star. A.D. AMOROSI



HOT plate

Pork belly at Dim Sum House

Jennifer Logue eats her way through Philly
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Dim sum is the ultimate comfort food. With staples like soup dumplings and steamed buns, the Chinese cuisine is fluffy yet sustaining — giving you that warm fuzzy feeling minus the dreaded food coma.

When I heard about the opening of Dim Sum House in University City last week, I had to check it out for myself, partly because of the impressive space (seats 225 people) and partly because I've been craving dim sum like crazy thanks to the chill in the air.

Being on the hungrier side, I decided to order a more substantial dish — the pork belly with mustard greens. The waiter described it as a build-your-own-slider sort of situation, with generous portions of tender pork belly atop a bed of pickled mustard greens, alongside steamed bok choy and, of course, those adorable bao buns.

As I waited for the dish to be prepared, I snacked on egg custard bao and leisurely sipped a pot of oolong tea — a subtly sweet start to a savory meal.

When the pork belly arrived, it was a sight to behold: the bright green of the bok choy was surrounded by a reddish mountain of meat and four waxen buns. I immediately dug in to build my first "slider," picking up the delicate bao bun and filling it with buttery pork belly and the tangy mustard greens. (I was told to eat my bok choy separately, given its chewiness.)

PROVIDED

After one bite, I was hooked. The doughy, marshmallow-like texture of the bao bun and the melt-in-your-mouth pork belly matched perfectly with the earthy tartness of the mustard greens.

Dim sum? I think this stuff should really be called dim "more."

Dim Sum House is located at 3939 Chestnut St.

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Illia Barger (b. 1961), *The Dead Impressionists: Daniel Garber and Elizabeth Fredly Price*, 2012–16, oil on gesso board. Courtesy of Illia Barger.

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Kinderdijk is renown for its windmills and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. TIM GRAHAM, GETTY IMAGES

Gouda

Known for its eponymous and world-famous cheese, Gouda (pronounced "HOW-duh") is a lively market town in South Holland that rewards gourmands and history buffs alike. Stop by t'Kaaswinkeltje to pick up one of the many varieties of Gouda, explore the city's 15th-century architecture, and check out Gouda pottery, a style native to the city known for its Art Deco aesthetic.

Pyramid of Austerlitz

Just outside Utrecht is one of the more bizarre and fascinating relics from the Napoleonic Era in the Netherlands. Gen. Auguste de Marmont, a close confidant of Napoleon, was stationed in the area in 1804 and commissioned his troops to construct a pyramid as a way to pass the time while they waited for a British invasion. The 120-foot earthen structure was finished in a remarkable 27 days and later.

Bloemendaal beach

Even in the summer, a dip in the North Sea is not for the faint-hearted, but the Dutch coast is a surprisingly charming place to spend a day. Bloemendaal Beach is easily accessible by public transport from Amsterdam or by bike from Haarlem, and is a favorite hangout among locals in the summer. The waterfront is lined with restaurants and bars that stay open well into the night.

Giethoom

The Netherlands is full of towns and villages crisscrossed by canals, but Giethoorn is the only one that is completely car-free. Pedestrian bridges and bike paths weave among the 18th-century farmhouses, but flat-bottomed punt boats are the more efficient and interesting way to get around. If you visit during winter, you can join the locals in skating along the frozen canals.

Haarlem

This postcard-perfect city is just 15 minutes by train from Amsterdam, but the change of pace is instantly noticeable. Known as one of the best places in the Netherlands to shop, Haarlem is replete with interesting boutiques and welcoming cafés that line the still largely tourist-free alleyways and quiet canals.

Kinderdijk

Few things symbolize the Netherlands quite like the windmill, a necessary innovation in a country where 25 percent of its land sits below sea level. The 19 windmills in Kinderdijk date to the 18th century and are still used today to pump water out of the polder, an area of low-lying reclaimed land.

Keukenhof Gardens

For two months every spring, Keukenhof Gardens explodes with the blooms of more than 7 million flowers, most notably the famous Dutch tulips. Tulip mania began in the Netherlands in the 17th century, when the colorful flowers became much-sought-after status symbols, and the country is still known for its horticulture tradition. The 2017 season runs from March 23 to May 21, with the best viewing usually in mid-April.

Haarlem retains much of its medieval character. DEAGOSTINI, GETTY IMAGES

Delft

The quiet streets, medieval architecture and verdant canals epitomize the charm of the Netherlands' small cities, but Delft stands apart thanks to its list of illustrious residents and history. Several members of the Dutch royal family, the House of Orange, have lived, been married and are buried in Delft, while Johannes Vermeer depicted his hometown and its residents in many of his renowned paintings. Delft is also known for its ornate blue pottery.

Wadden Sea Islands

Strung together in an archipelago in the North Sea, the five main Wadden Sea Islands, also known as the West Frisian Islands, are a popular vacation spot for locals but less frequented by foreigners. The islands are sprinkled with picturesque seaside villages alongside expansive beaches home to large populations of native birds and seals.

Hoge Veluwe National Park

A lot is packed into the park's 20 square miles. Much of it is dense forest and home to a large population of deer, before giving way to some of the largest sand dunes in Europe. A historic hunting lodge built by the couple who founded the park is open to the public, in addition to a small museum displaying the couple's private collection, which includes works from Van Gogh, Monet and Picasso.

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Celebrity Cruises — 7-Day Bermuda $649* pp — Ocean View $839* pp, Taxes & fees $204.27pp, Balcony $1119* pp
Royal Caribbean — 9-Day Australia $681* pp — Ocean View $891* pp, Taxes & fees $128.31pp, Balcony $1014* pp
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Union add depth, look to make strides after MLS SuperDraft

Philly added two key prospects with the 25th and 33rd picks Friday.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
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Fresh off of their first playoff appearance since 2011, the Philadelphia Union are looking to build off of a solid 2016 campaign (11-14-9) which saw growth in many areas throughout the roster.

In this past weekend's MLS SuperDraft, the Union had the luxury of adding depth to their team, rather than a rebuilding the roster like the team has had to suffer through in previous years.

With no picks in the first round, the Union were able to nab two players they were very high on in the second round this past Friday. With the 25th pick, the Union selected forward Marcus Epps of South Florida followed by the selection of defender Aaron Jones of Clemson with the 33rd pick.

Epps scored just eight goals and nine assists in 75 career matches with the Bulls, but the Union were drawn to his size and speed and his ability to attack one-on-one.

"He has speed, he has agility, he's a big boy," Union sporting director Earnie Stewart said. "The combination of those factors and the philosophy that we have at the Philadelphia Union, we believe we can develop this kid to be something very special. If you have the ability that he has on the ball and the speed that he has, that can create a lot of chaos in the opponent's half."

Jones will fit in just fine with a Union defense that vastly improved last season. Alongside Keegan Rosenberry, Ray Gaddis and Joshua Yaro, Jones figures to compete and make his mark on the defensive end in camp and potentially be a spot starter if an injury arises.

"He really impressed us," Union manager Jim Curtin said. "He's a kid who will compete from Day 1. He wins his one-on-one battles defensively, he embraces the defensive part of the game and he's a guy that wants to get better every day. He has a Union mentality and will be a guy our fans will be high on."

Earlier this month, the Union inked former Arsenal forward Jay Simpson as a Discovery Signing. Simpson notched 25 goals in 45 games last season with Leyton Orient in England. They signed defender Giliano Wijnaldum as another Discovery Signing who has made 65 appearances in the Dutch first division Eredivisie, and who was a former player of Stewart's during his time with Dutch club AZ Alkmaar.

The team is focusing on the holes in the roster, which led to a 0-6-2 winless streak to end their season including a 3-1 loss in the first round of the playoffs.

"I still feel like we could've done more, but at least it gave us that taste that we can accomplish what we want to accomplish," Union defender Richie Marquez said. "This season is going to be a whole new year, this season is fresh and the bar has already been set so now we just have to achieve that bar and surpass it."

The Union believe they can build off their successes, and failures, from last season and make strides in 2017. GETTY IMAGES

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UNIT# 2085 CARROLL, DENNIS
UNIT# 2144 COOPER, DANIELLE
UNIT# 2023 COOPER, JACQUELINE
UNIT# 3044 DOWIE, LELAR
UNIT# 1029 HAYES, LINCOLN
UNIT# 2030 JACKSON, NIASHA
UNIT# 1208 KENDRICK, REGINA
UNIT# 1041 LAWTON, IDA
UNIT# 1087 LEONARD, CLARISSA
UNIT# 1007 NORAT, DIANA
UNIT # 3084 PETTIT-BOGGS, MELODY
UNIT# 2151 SAVAIN, SAMUEL
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Alex Williams, Monique Fulton, Rose Mcharris, Reynaldo Feliciano, Rose Mcharris, Steven Rigney, Phillip Pitts, Raheem Boyd, Michael Nelson, Carmen Gonzalez, Christina Alexandria, Shantel Harris, Desiree Mcclain, Shakota Davis, HOLLY BROWN, Noel Cambero, Amanda Jenkins, Christian Camacho, Betty Miller, Gregorio Esquilin, Jason Grier, Shavon Clement, Jennifer Lord, Naeka Jones, Diana Skala

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Rising star Embiid is printing money for 76ers franchise

The Sixers' star has the NBA's fifth-best-selling jersey.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
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Joel Embiid has been putting the Sixers' franchise on the map — single-handedly. GETTY IMAGES

The Sixers are still a ways away from playoff contention, (don't listen to Joel Embiid, they are) and with Ben Simmons close but still sidelined, most of the time the 76ers' lineup is comprised of their star rookie Embiid and four players no one really cares about.

But that fifth player — the presumptive NBA Rookie of the Year and a possible All-Star starter — has been putting the Sixers back on the map in Philly and all over the world.

Last year, the Sixers (who finished 10-72) averaged 14,881 fans per game over 41 home games for a 73.2 percent capacity — the second worst in the NBA. This year, with Embiid playing (most) home games, the Sixers have welcomed nearly 10 percent more fans per contest and have sold 82.9 of tickets. In fact, various sources suggest it's the highest attendance the Sixers have had since Allen Iverson last played in Philly.

The team is making cash in other ways too. According the sports merchandise website Fanatics, the Sixers are the fourth-best selling NBA team in total merchandise sales and Embiid has the fifth best-selling player in the past seven days.

Not more than two years ago, the Sixers' TV ratings were characterized with being "embarrassingly low." This year, with Embiid they are can't-miss television. The Sixers had yet another game flexed to national coverage, as Philly's Jan. 27th home game against the Rockets was moved back an hour to 8 p.m. for broadcast on ESPN (bumping the Bulls-Heat game from that slot). They had zero nationally televised games a season ago.

Things are looking up and will likely only get better. Get your season tickets now.

Christie says that Eagles fans 'suck,' and have 'sucked for a long time'

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is a Cowboys fan, that's never been a secret.

The Republican has been seen many, many times in the company of Dallas owner Jerry Jones, and as much as his constituents in South Jersey (Eagles fans) or in North Jersey (Giants fans) dislike it, he's entitled to be a fan of the team he likes (even if it is a bit bandwagony).

However, the governor — on the New York radio station WFAN Wednesday morning — took his annoying fandom to an insulting level.

"I understand why people are interested if you are a public figure, as to who you root for," Christie said told the Boomer and Carton Show. "They're interested. But the hostility, I will tell you that I take for being a Cowboys fan — and this is what I say to Giants fans all the time, and Eagles fans. Now Eagles fans I understand it from a little more because the Eagles do suck and they've sucked for a long time. And their fans are generally angry, awful people."

Chris Christie pissed off a lot of New Jerseyans and doesn't seem to care. GETTY IMAGES

Christie, whose term will end in 2018, continued on the radio program:

"They're passionate, wild fans and they wanna get angry with me, that's OK," he said. "But the one thing they can't say, is that I don't tell them the truth. And the truth is, I'm a Cowboys fan. I've said it since I've ran for governor in '09, never hid it from anybody, and so, I don't understand why they're angry about me being happy about my team winning?"

That's quite a statement from the one-time presidential wannabe, and one that perhaps comes as no surprise to the Eagles and Giants fans living in his state. In the current Trumpian political climate, it seems apt that a Republican politician would so carelessly and blatantly insult voters with a direct impact on his future in politics (he is term limited, so perhaps he no longer cares).

But as Trump proved in November, insult politics seem to work. And Eagles fans — like Mexicans, the disabled, women and Muslim Americans (to name a few) to Trump — will have to take the childish insults they always have from other NFL fans and hope it translates into a winning season sometime soon.

EVAN MACY

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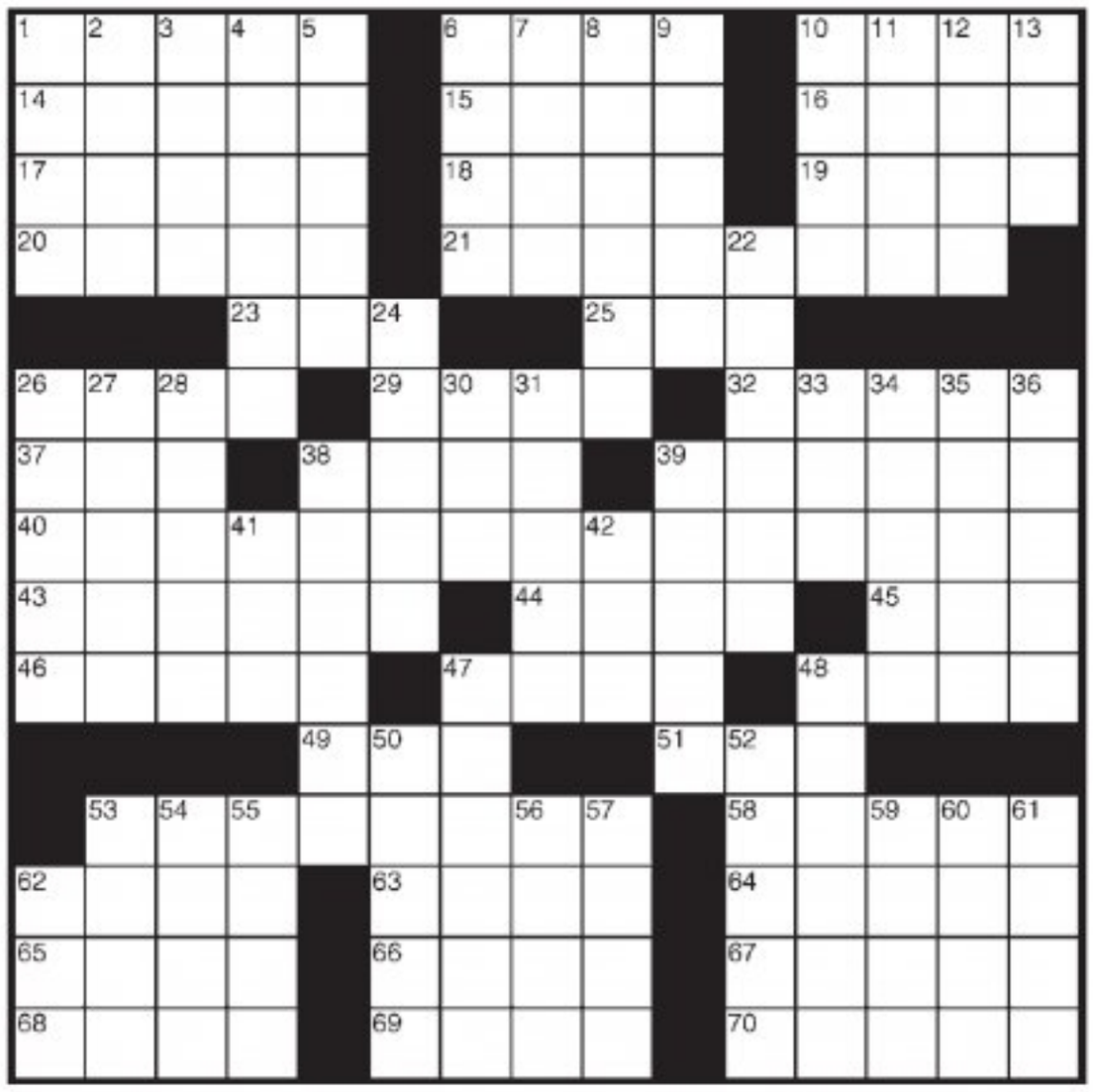

Across
1 Twitter
6 Liquid asset
10 Average
14 Prudential rival
15 Bounce back
16 Microbiology gel
17 Do a double-take
18 Hodgepodge
19 Longings
20 Ration
21 Permeated
23 Width of a cir.
25 Sugar amt.
26 Have it --
29 Ancient Roman historian
32 Drop a glass
37 Ostrich cousin
38 Loblolly
39 Yeti spotter, maybe
40 Cool it! (5 wds.)
43 Racks up, as debt
44 Storyline
45 Foot-pound relative
46 Booster rocket
47 Furtive whisper
48 Time to beware
49 -- ammoniac
51 "Hold on a --!"
53 Most calm
58 Watchdog breed
62 Surf partner
63 Finish-line marker
64 Philanthropist
65 Solar wind particles
66 Osiris' beloved
67 Ferret out
68 Japanese soup
69 Per --
70 Pyle or Kovacs

Down
1 Dear, in Italy
2 Irresponsible jerk
3 Etc. relative (2 wds.)
4 Write to a spy
5 Page or LuPone
6 Corp. leaders
7 Bill of Rights org.
8 Untrustworthy
9 -- it (goes by shank's mare)
10 Opposing votes
11 Curved molding
12 Fan dancer Sally --
13 Half a couple
22 Outcome
24 Pseudonym
26 Radio, TV, etc.
27 In the midst of
28 Ninny
30 Packing slip
31 No. 2 people
33 Gull's cry
34 Pistol-packing
35 Trunk contents
36 Dangles
38 Put into words
39 Lairds and lassies
41 Winery cask
42 Pacino and Unser
47 Polite word
48 More yucky
50 Garret
52 Aerie dweller
53 Je ne sais --
54 Coffee dispensers
55 In that case (2 wds.)
56 Be a webmaster?
57 Trial run
59 John, in Siberia
60 Actress -- Garr
61 Handel contemporary
62 Bob Cratchit's boy

metro.us/sudoku

easy

3		7				2	6	
8	2							
		6		2	5			4
		9	6	7		4		
		1				7		
		3		1	2	9		
7			3	4		6		
							4	8
	6	8				3		5

hard

			9	7			3	5
		9	6		5			
					2			4
2		3				5	8	6
		1		8		4		
4	6	8				7		1
3			5					
			7		8	3		
6	8			2	3			

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries It will be difficult to contain your feelings or keep your plans under wraps. Put your energy into education and pursuing a promising partnership.

Taurus Don't let an unexpected turn of events cause you to question what you are doing. Live up to your promises, trust in your plan and see it through to the end.

Gemini You'll be taken advantage of if you give your time, money and services to people who want to reap rewards without doing the work. Make sure you are compensated.

Cancer Put more emphasis on formulating plans that will help you stand out from the competition. A creative approach to your work and personal finances will pay off.

Leo You'll end the day on an emotional note if you aren't bold enough to stand up for your rights and the rights of those you care about. Do your part and avoid regret.

Virgo Be open about the way you feel and receptive toward those willing to share. Partnerships will lead to opportunities that allow you to take on more responsibilities.

Libra Don't act on impulse or emotion. Focus on making personal improvements and nurturing relationships that are important to you. Compromise will help ease any dispute.

Scorpio Don't jump or make an impulsive move just because someone else does. Trust in yourself to achieve whatever you set your mind to with finesse and punctuality.

Sagittarius Emotional spending will be your downfall. You cannot buy love or happiness. Stay focused on what's best for you, not on what others want you to do.

Capricorn You'll take two steps forward and three steps back if you act prematurely. Question everything and everyone to avoid stepping into an abyss.

Aquarius Line up all the things you want to do and get moving. An opportunity to bring about a positive change will lead to perks as well as additional income.

Pisces Use your insight to determine what part you can play in the changes that are unfolding around you. A subtle response will enhance your reputation. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

A	C	D	C	■	W	E	E	D	■	K	E	B	A	B
U	H	U	H	■	I	T	E	R	■	E	P	O	X	Y
R	I	C	E	■	T	H	O	U	■	T	I	T	L	E
A	T	T	A	C	H	E	■	B	A	T	C	H	E	S
■	■	■	P	H	I	L	S	■	F	L	U	■	■	■
C	A	V	E	A	T	■	C	A	T	E	R	I	N	G
A	V	E	R	S	■	M	U	L	E	■	E	N	Y	A
R	I	G	■	M	A	I	L	E	R	S	■	A	L	I
O	L	A	F	■	R	E	P	S	■	M	I	N	O	T
B	A	S	E	M	E	N	T	■	L	I	N	E	N	S
■	■	■	R	O	N	■	S	E	E	R	S	■	■	■
P	O	R	T	R	A	Y	■	T	A	K	E	O	F	F
I	N	U	I	T	■	O	N	U	S	■	C	B	E	R
T	E	S	L	A	■	R	O	D	E	■	T	O	T	E
A	S	T	E	R	■	E	V	E	R	■	S	E	A	T

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